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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 117448 TOSEC 010082

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), SOPN
SUBJECT:TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MAY 20, MORNING

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM FUNSETH, S/PRS
NO. 5
SUMMARY: TALKS MONDAY CONCENTRATED ON GENERAL US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND CSCE, WITH TUESDAY TO FOCUS ON SALT AND THE ME. END SUMMARY.

1. WASHPOST - MARDER LEADS WITH HAK REITERATING US WARNING THAT DETENTE NOT BE USED TO COVER "THE EXPLOIT-ATION OF LOCAL CONFLICT." FIVE HOURS OF TALKS CONTAINED U.S. VIEWS OF EFFECT OF INDOCHINA ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND SOVIET PRIORITY FOR PROGRESS ON CSCE LEADING TO EUROPEAN SUMMIT. U.S. SPOKESMAN OFFERED OPINION THAT FIXING DATE FOR THAT SUMMIT "PREMATURE", AND THE SUMMER WILL THEREFORE CONTAIN CONTINUED BARGAINING ON VARYING PRIORITIES.

SPOKESMAN ANDERSON CITED SAYING "THE SUBJECT OF VIETNAM OBVIOUSLY CAME UP," AS HAK REPORTEDLY REFERRED TO HIS ST. LOUIS SPEECH ON DETENTE. U.S. ALSO WORRIED SOVIETS MIGHT EXPLOIT SITUATION IN ME. SOVIETS PRESSING FOR CONCLUSION OF CSCE, BUT ANDERSON SAID "THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE BEFORE WE CAN ASSUME THAT THERE WILL BE A UNCLASSIFIED

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SUMMIT MEETING." SALT WAS BARELY SAVORED, AND WILL BE DISCUSSED MORE FULLY TUESDAY, AS WILL THE ME SITUATION. IF SALT UNDERSTANDING IS REACHED NEW INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE SENT TO DELEGATIONS LEADING TO AN ACCORD BEFORE FALL

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SUMMIT.

2. NYTIMES - GELB LEADS WITH SALT AS CENTERPIECE OF TALKS, SAYING THAT U.S. SIDE DOES NOT EXUDE OPTIMISM, BUT STILL HOPES THAT POLITICAL DECISIONS CAN BE MADE ON BASIS OF VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT SO NEW INSTRUCTIONS WILL HELP DELEGATIONS PRODUCE ACCORD. HAK CONFIDENCE IN REACHING ACCORD STEMS FROM VLAD AGREEMENT, BUT "PENTAGON DOES NOT ENTIRELY SHARE THAT CONFIDENCE, PARTICULARLY ON THE ISSUE OF HOW TO VERIFY" MIRVS. APPARENT SOLUTION IS SOVIETS PLACING "RECOGNIZABLE FACILITIES IN PLAIN VIEW NEAR (MIRV) MISSILES." HAK REPORTED TO PREFER MIRV'D SS-18 TO GIANT WARHEAD WHICH COULD HIT SILO.

3. KALB, FIRST LINER, CBS RADIO, VIENNA - THE BLOOM IS OFF DETENTE -- THE CENTERPIECE OF HENRY KISSINGER'S GLOBAL POLICY.

HAK WAS SITTING WITH AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY, THE CAMERAS WERE WHINING, THE REPORTERS WERE WRITING, THE DIPLOMATS WERE MAKING SMALL TALK. ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS HIGH FOR THIS MEETING, ONE AUSTRIAN NEWSMAN SUDDENLY ASKED. IT WAS A FAT QUESTION, THE KIND HAK USED TO FIELD WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF OPTIMISM, CONTRIVED OR REAL. HIS CANDOR WAS UNUSUAL -- NO LESS SO THAN FM GROMYKO'S. WHEN THE RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT ARRIVED HERE AT THE AIRPORT HE WAS OBLIGED TO OFFER NO MORE THAN THE USUAL DIPLO-MATIC RHETORIC - GLAD TO BE HERE, LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. GROMYKO WENT FURTHER THOUGH. HE SAID, ACCENTING THE NEGATIVE, THAT THERE WERE MANY PROBLEMS IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, "NOT A FEW," WERE HIS EXACT WORDS. HIS FACE LOOKED GRIM EVEN FOR HIM. FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS THEN BOTH DIPLOMATS SEEMED READY TO STRIKE A NOTE OF CAUTION, EVEN PESSIMISM, THEIR CUSTOMARY JAUNTINESS AT LEAST IN PUBLIC WAS GONE. THE BLOOM IS UNCLASSIFIED

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OFF DETENTE. THEY MET LAST NIGHT IN A LARGE DRAWING ROOM IN KISSINGER'S HOTEL, THIS MORNING AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY, SHIFTING SUBJECTS FROM THE STALLED NEGOTIATION OVER ANOTHER STRATEGIC NUCLEAR ARMS AGREEMENT TO THE EQUALLY STALLED NEGOTIATION OVER THE ME. PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC ARMS IS MORE LIKELY THAN ON THE MIDDLE EAST, IN PART BECAUSE SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV WANTS TO BE ABLE TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENT ON ANOTHER DEAL LIMITING STRATEGIC WEAPONS SOMETIME BEFORE HIS SCHEDULED SUMMIT

TRIP TO WASHINGTON THIS FALL. HE KNOWS THAT SUCH AGREEMENT IS NOT A PREREQUISITE FOR THE SUMMIT, BUT IT DOES HELP ENSURE ONE. ON THE ASSUMPTION BREZHNEV IS AIMING FOR EARLY RETIREMENT NEXT YEAR AND THAT HE WANTS

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TO RETIRE ON A NOTE OF TRIUMPH HOWEVER MUTED, IT IS
PRESUMED HERE THAT HE IS EAGER TO MAKE THE DEAL.

HAK AND GROMYKO MAY BE ABLE TO NARROW THEIR DIFFERENCES
ON THE KEY OBSTACLE HOLDING UP AGREEMENT, NAMELY
VERIFICATION. HOW DO YOU MAKE SURE THAT EACH SIDE HAS
THE NUMBER OF MISSILES WITH MULTIPLE WARHEADS THAT IT
CLAIMS? BUT IF THERE IS A CHANCE ON PROGRESS ON
NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THERE IS VERY LITTLE CHANCE ON THE ME.
THE POSITIONS OF THE SUPER POWERS STILL QUITE DIFFERENT,
THE U.S. ABLE TO TALK TO BOTH SIDES, STRIKING A NOTE OF
EVENHANDEDNESS THAT HAS MADE THE ISRAELIS NERVOUS; THE
RUSSIANS MAKING NO PRETENSE OF EVENHANDEDNESS, THROWING
THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO THE ARAB SIDE. THIS MAKES IT
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO BRIDGE THE ARAB-ISRAELI CHASM.
THE HOPES OF ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO THAT THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE COULD BE QUICKLY RECONVENED, THESE HOPES
HAVE BEEN DIMMED BY RUSSIA'S NEGATIVE EXPERIENCE RECENTLY
TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED ARAB FRONT. SO THE
RUSSIANS ARE GAINING WISDOM ON THE MIDDLE EAST,
BUT SO FAR THAT HAS NOT ADVANCED THE CAUSE OF ACCOMODATION.
IT REMAINS UP TO THE U.S. TO KEEP THE
DIPLOMATIC MOMENTUM GOING. PRESIDENT FORD WILL SEE
EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT AND ISRAELI PM RABIN EARLY
NEXT MONTH. ON THE BASIS OF THOSE MEETINGS THE FORD
ADMINISTRATION WILL DECIDE ON ITS NEXT STEP. THEN
ITS VAUNTED REASSESSMENT OF POLICY WILL HAVE ENDED. THIS
UNCLASSIFIED

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IS THE FIRST GROMYKO-HAK MEETING SINCE THE AMERICAN
DEBACLE IN VIETNAM, A MOMENT FOR TESTING THE WATER OF
DETENTE. IT'S COOL.

IN A LATER BROADCAST, KALB ADDED THESE THOUGHTS:
... ALTHOUGH KISSINGER HAS SAID SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN
MADE HE DID NOT ITEMIZE THE PROGRESS AND IT IS CLEAR
MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE BEFORE AGREEMENTS ON ANY
ONE ISSUE CAN BE PROCLAIMED. THE ME IS AN ESPECIALLY
TOUGH PROBLEM ON WHICH NO PROGRESS CAN BE EXPECTED HERE.

... THE SECRETARY DOES NOT WANT TO BE ABRASIVE; HE WANTS
DETENTE TO SURVIVE BUT NOT IF THE RUSSIANS PRESS
THEIR ADVANTAGE DURING THIS PERIOD OF AMERICAN
REASSESSMENT.

4. KEN FREED, AP RADIO - HAK AND SOVIET FM GROMYKO

MET FOR FIVE HOURS MONDAY WITH THE DISCUSSION UNEXPECTEDLY
TURNING TO VIETNAM INSTEAD OF THE SCHEDULED TOPIC, THE
COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION
TREATY. THE TWO MEN MET ALONE WITHOUT AIDES FOR THE
FIRST HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTES, AND DURING THAT TIME

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HAK BROUGHT UP THE INDOCHINA SITUATION. HE WARNED
GROMYKO AGAINST TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT MIGHT
BE PERCEIVED AS AN AMERICAN WEAKNESS FOLLOWING THE
COLLAPSE OF THE OLD SAIGON GOVERNMENT. THE SOVIET
OFFICIAL WAS POINTEDLY TOLD THAT THE U.S. IS FIRMLY
COMMITED TO PROTECTING ITS INTERESTS AROUND THE WORLD,
A LESSON THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN LEARNED BY THE DETERMINED
AMERICAN ACTION IN USING MILITARY FORCE AGAINST CAMBODIA
LAST WEEK DURING THE MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR. THE ARMS TALKS
WILL BE DISCUSSED WHEN THE TWO MEN RESUME THEIR MEETINGS
THURSDAY.
5. KOPPEL - AM AMERICA - THE TALKS BEGAN THIS MORNING
WHERE THEY LEFT OFF LAST NIGHT, THE QUESTION OF HOW
EACH SIDE CAN VERIFY THE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR MISSILES
THAT THE OTHER SIDE HAS MODIFIED TO CARRY CLUSTERS OF
INDEPENDENTLY TARGETED WARHEADS. IT'S A QUESTION THAT
GOES TO THE VERY CORE OF DISTRUST THAT STILL MARKS
U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. AND THE OTHER TOPIC THAT
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HAK AND GROMYKO WILL BE TACKLING TODAY, HOW AND WHAT
FORM TO GET THE ME PEACE TALKS ROLLING AGAIN. HAK IS

TRYING TO FIND OUT WHETHER THE SOVIETS WILL SIT STILL
FOR A NEW AMERICAN INITIATIVE OR IF MOSCOW INSISTS ON

A NEW GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, HOW THE SOVIETS PROPOSE
TO HANDLE THE THORNY ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION.
SUCCESS OR FAILURE, THESE TALKS WRAP UP THIS AFTERNOON -
KISSINGER THEN MOVING ON TO BONN, BERLIN AND ANKARA,
TURKEY.

6. UPI - GROWALD SAYS HAK REPORTED "SOME PROGRESS" ON
SALT, DISCUSSION WAS "CONSTRUCTIVE AND CONDUCTED IN A
FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE." ANDERSON CITED "BOTH HAK AND
GROMYKO (HAD) A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE TOPIC ON MORE
THAN A TECHNICAL LEVEL." CSCE ALSO DISCUSSED.

7. AP - FREED SAYS TODAY'S TALKS TO BE ON SALT AFTER
WARNING YESTERDAY BY HAK NOT TO EXPLOIT INDOCHINA RESULTS.
ALSO SCHEDULED IS "A BRIEF GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE ME
SITUATION" BEFORE HAK GOES TO BONN.

8. REUTER - NELSON (AND MORRISON) LEAD WITH SALT
TALKS TODAY AFTER A WARNING BY K NOT TO EXPLOIT DETENTE

UNCLASSIFIED
IN PERIPHERAL AREAS, ECHOING RECENT HAK STATEMENTS ON
THE SUBJECT. MONDAY TALKS CONCENTRATED, SURPRISINGLY,
ON CSCE, WHICH IS SECONDARY TO U.S. BUT PRIMARY TO
USSR. TUESDAY SALT TALKS MIGHT NOT LEAVE ANY TIME FOR
ME, OFFICIALS SAID.

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